

Children's Protective Services

Michigan
Department of Human Services

Program Description

- Children's Protective Services has the responsibility to investigate allegations that a child under age 18 is suspected of being abused or neglected by a parent, legal guardian or any other person responsible for the child's health or welfare.

Primary Objectives

- Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.
- Children are safely maintained in their own homes whenever possible and appropriate.
- Children who must be removed from their homes are placed in the most stable and family like setting possible, relatives considered 1st.

Legal Definitions of Child Abuse and Neglect

- o Child Abuse-
Harm or Threatened harm to a child, which occurs through non-accidental physical, or mental injury;sexual abuse; sexual exploitation; or maltreatment

Legal Definitions of Neglect

- o Child Neglect-
Harm or threatened harm to a child that occurs through negligent treatment, including the failure to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter or medical care. Placing a child at unreasonable risk...

Child Protection Law

REPORTING PROCESS

- o Mandated and Non Mandated Reporters
- o Anyone Can Make a Report
- o Protected by law when complaint made in good faith

Source of Complaints

- Mandated Reporters
 - Over half of investigations
- Non Mandated Reporters
 - Just less than half of investigations

Who Are Reporting Persons?

- Mandated
 - Law Enforcement**
 - School Counselors**
 - Hospitals**
- Non Mandated
 - Parents**
 - Anonymous**
 - Relatives**
 - Friend or Neighbor**

Process of a Child Abuse/ Neglect Complaint Intake

- Complaint called in to DHS CPS
- Intake of complaint procedure
- Reject a Complaint

What To Expect When You Call

- o The intake worker will gather information
- o Request written report from mandated reporter
- o Make Collateral contacts as appropriate
- o Reject Complaint
- o Assign for field investigation
- o Information on decision shared with mandated reporters

Rejection of Complaints

- o Allegations already investigated
- o Discounted after collateral contacts
- o Complaint does not meet CPL definition of CA/N
- o No Reasonable Cause
- o Referral source not credible
- o Withdrawn with cause

Assignment of a complaint for Investigation

- o Immediate to 24 Hour Commencement
- o 24 to 72 hour Face to Face
 - age of child
 - child afraid to go home
 - type of abuse neglect

Investigation

- Determine Safety of the child
- Take Action to Protect the Child
- Determine Whether CA/N Occurred
 - 30 days to Complete an Investigation
 - Forensic Interviewing
 - Contact with all children and pertinent adults
 - Law Enforcement Collaboration
 - Collateral Contacts with community

Investigation Disposition Process

- Must meet legal definition of CA/N
- Preponderance of evidence
- Risk Assessment

- Approximately 75% of investigations do
not result in preponderance finding

Investigation Disposition

- Category I- Court Intervention
- Category II- Mandatory Services with Central Registry Perpetrators
- Category III- Preponderance but no Central Registry Perpetrator
- Category IV- Non Preponderance
- Category V- Unable to locate or no foundation for investigation

Types of Abuse & Neglect

- o Physical Neglect
- o Physical Abuse
- o Failure to Protect
- o Sexual Abuse
- o Mental Injury
- o Medical Neglect
- o Abandonment
- o Improper Supervision
- o Multiple Maltreatment

Perpetrators

- o Parent in the home77%
- o Parent outside of the home....11%
- o Other person in the home.....3%
- o Relative.....3%
- o Foster Parent.....Less than 1%
- o Daycare Provider....Less than 1%

Disposition Response

- o Refer to community service provider
- o Open for services
- o Emergency Removal - Child in imminent danger
- o Mandatory Petition

Emergency Removal- Possible Outcomes

- o Court leaves child in home without services
(May order perpetrator out of home)
- o Court leaves child in home with department and court supervision and support services
(May order perpetrator out of home)
- o Court orders child to be removed from the home

Confidentiality

- o Central Registry Information is not Accessible to the Public
- o Mandated Reporters have the right to know intake and disposition decision
- o FOIA does not apply to CPS case information

Contact Us

- o www.michigan.gov/dhs
"Protective Services" link
- o Children's Protective Services
Program Office
(517) 335-3704
